



# **BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL**

## **Infrastructure Media Summary**

### **August 31, 2017**

#### **Porter County working to shorten its list of troubled bridges**

NWI Times  
Bob Kasarda  
8/31/17

VALPARAISO — Twenty of the 128 road bridges across Porter County have fallen far enough into disrepair the state has ordered they undergo inspections once a year rather than the usual every other year. None poses an immediate safety threat or requires closure, but the Porter County Board of Commissioners is wasting no time seeking repairs for three of the worst bridges as part of a wider \$30 million capital upgrade plan. The three commissioners, who inherited the problems, also agreed in July to double the amount of tax money earmarked for bridge work. Rather than increasing taxes, the commissioners will take the money from the wider amount already collected by county government and municipalities. The goal is to have work underway on four of these bridges next summer, including the three in the worst shape, said Bob Thompson, executive director of Porter County's Department of Development & Storm Water Management. A fifth bridge is scheduled for repairs early the following year, he said. "We're behind on the bridges," said Porter County Board of Commissioners President Jeff Good, R-Center. Most of the problem had been a lack of funding, he said, and no one was making it a priority.

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/porter-county-working-to-shorten-its-list-of-troubled-bridges/article\\_d1323a95-4f96-5254-aba3-15cb79cd706a.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/porter-county-working-to-shorten-its-list-of-troubled-bridges/article_d1323a95-4f96-5254-aba3-15cb79cd706a.html)

#### **Transportation Secretary Celebrates 80/90 Push Project**

Inside Indiana Business  
Dan McGowan  
8/30/17

SOUTH BEND - Federal, state and local officials levels have cut the ribbon on a \$220 million project designed to improve more than 70 miles of the Indiana Toll Road, including over 50 bridges throughout seven counties. Completion of the 80/90 Push Project, which also involves redevelopment of eight travel plazas and installation of fiber optic cables for an Intelligent Travel System, attracted a bi-partisan group of leaders including U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao. The project was funded by the Granger-based Indiana Toll Road Concession Co., the private operator of the corridor. The gathering also provided an opportunity for Chao, whose department handles a budget of more than \$75 billion a year, to experience other major infrastructure projects awaiting potential federal funding like work to extend the West Lake Corridor of the South Shore Rail Line, double-tracking the line throughout northwest and northern Indiana and relocating the South Shore's position at South Bend International Airport. Local and state funding has been lined up and officials are seeking approval of tens of millions of dollars from the federal government to move forward with the projects. Though Chao would not comment

on the progress of the funding, she did tell our partners at The Times of Northwest Indiana "suffice it to say that the bipartisan nature and the public-private partnership aspects of any project would be ones that are important to us." Chao was joined by ITRCC Chief Executive Officer Nicholas Barr, Governor Eric Holcomb, Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.), Acting Administrator of Federal Highway Administration Brandye Hendrickson, Indiana Finance Authority Chair Micah Vincent, Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Joe McGuinness, Representative Pete Visclosky (D-1) and Representative Jackie Walorski (R-2). South Bend Regional Chamber President Jeff Rea, who was among several economic development officials from throughout northern Indiana in attendance, said "the South Shore Double Track project, the West Lake Corridor project, and the South Bend International Airport relocation project are all critical economic development efforts in Northwest and North Central Indiana.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/36250235/federal-transportation-secretary-celebrates-8090-push-project>

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